

Date: February 10, 2022

Time: 6:45 – 9:00pm

Location: Remote Participation, via Zoom

Agenda (times are approximate)

- 1. Zoom Protocols, Review of Mission Statement and Group Meeting Protocols (5 mins)**
- 2. Check-In (20 mins.)**
- 3. Review of December and January minutes (5 mins.)**
- 4. Misc. Updates: Re-hanging of the BLM Banner; Robbins Library Social Justice Book Club; Various letters re: overnight parking waiver, etc. (30 mins.)**
- 5. Planning for March Meeting Housing discussion (30 mins.)**
- 6. Discussion about DTG Co-Chair vacancy (15 mins.)**
- 7. Member news and announcements (15 mins.)**

Minutes: Taken by Elizabeth Dray

In attendance: Rebecca Gruber, Elizabeth Dray, Kellye Eversole, Lynette Culverhouse, Anne Cheung, Sarah McKinnon, Stephanie Ettinger de Cuba, Ileana Gatica

1. Zoom Protocols were shared, the Mission Statement was reviewed, Group Meeting Protocols were read, and the Land Acknowledgement was read.
2. Attendees checked in and shared. General topics discussed were:
 - a. Books we are reading/listening to in honor of Black History Month
 - b. Frustration with lack of progress and change over the last 50+ years
 - c. Level of divide and distrust between residents and APD
 - d. Discussion of the BLM banner
 - e. Update about meeting with Town Manager re: re-hanging of BLM Lives Banner
3. Discussed hearing about and endorsing warrant articles:
 - a. We are not policy makers, we don't have power, splintering off mutual concerns is a tool of oppression (rat poison). If DTG's feedback threatens you, it is not about us, it's about you (the one threatened and saying we can't)
 - b. Environmental justice is part of social justice - intersectionality of issues

below the surface.

- c. Framework - process needed
 - i. Should DTG create a list of what topics they would support?
 - ii. Have a stated communicated process for hearing about warrant articles?
 - iii. Schedule time limited discussion for /against. People should show up if they want to discuss.
 - iv. Who has voting rights? (e.g., 2 meetings in last 6 months)
- d. General consensus that we should discuss the warrant articles and that DTG has a role in endorsing warrant articles.
- e. Need to support the Chair when they engage on this issue as it is a difficult space to operate in.
- f. Suggested text: The DTG will endorse warrant articles that it deems would advance the mission of DTG if (1) such warrant article has been presented to the chair of the DTG by XXX [Rebecca will add date] date; and (2) a majority of members eligible to vote approve
 - i. What does it mean for DTG to endorse?
 - ii. Last year, the Chair signed on behalf of DTG - whoever came to us asking us to endorse had to provide a draft letter for us to sign (we had the right to edit)
 - iii. Same process this year?
 - iv. Suggested text: The expression of support may include (1) writing a letter of support, (2) co-signing a letter of support; or (3) generally expressing in written or oral statements that the DTG supports the adoption of the article.
 - v. Discussion of why we are feeling urgent at this moment to come up with a process
 - 1. Maybe it can wait until our March meeting if there aren't a lot of warrant articles
 - 2. On the other hand, if we have a process then it may make it easier to draw boundaries if there's a process and there isn't follow through from those who want our endorsement
 - vi. Difficult balance between those who don't want us to rock the boat AND those who push us to really rock the boat
 - 1. Much feedback, often from those not attending the meetings
 - vii. We don't have the structure to be nimble - we only meet once/month and there isn't a lot of interaction in-between times and thus it's hard to react quickly
 - 1. Maybe we should just say that upfront? That we are a slower deliberative body
 - viii. We set the process and we are interested in items related to our missions; we can set boundaries; Chair's role to bring items to meeting; not Chair's role to answer - she funnels it to the meeting
 - ix. Proposal for process for warrant articles AND a proposal for complaints/thoughts to share publicly - next meeting set aside 45 min
 - x. Diversity resolution in March - test one for our new process; then rat

- poison one in April, which may be more contentious
4. Reviewed and approved December and January minutes
 - a. Unanimous approval
 5. Misc. Updates: Re-hanging of the BLM Banner; Robbins Library Social Justice Book Club; Various letters re: overnight parking waiver, etc.
 - a. New Robbins Library Social Justice Book Club, co-sponsored by Arlington DTG
 - b. Use book group to bring in more voices - 3rd Tuesdays of every other month.
 - c. First meeting is March 22nd; selected title is Braiding Sweetgrass, the Arlington Reads Together selection.
 - d. Great to have this official collaboration with the Town
 - e. Disability Visibility is a proposal for another book down the road - great opportunity to work with the Disability Commission
 - f. DTG will be a pilot for hybrid participation per the Remote Participation Study Committee's initial report
 - i. DTG made it into one of the top groups to get to pilot hybrid
 - ii. Some urgency from the Town to get going on this
 - g. A while ago a question was raised by a DTG member as to why AFR, AHRC and DTG don't collaborate more?
 - i. In response, the DTG chair approached AFR and the AHRC.
 - ii. The AHRC has shown interest in spearheading an effort to create a "summit" of DEI organizations in town
 - iii. When and how unclear
 - h. YW considers April to be 'Stand Against Racism' month
 - i. Jillian Harvey would like to run 'Stand Against Racism' for Town and School employees
 - ii. Looking for people willing to facilitate the sessions - especially BIPOC people. Training and materials would be provided, and the goal is to also provide compensation
 - iii. DTG is a resource to potentially find some people
 6. Planning for March Meeting Housing discussion
 - a. Last month Karen Kelleher presented about affordable housing in Arlington
 - b. Karen offered to come back and talk more with us since we get to ask all the questions we might be interested in
 - c. What voices do we want to hear from and what questions do we want to ask?
 - d. Will it be any different if we bring her back?
 - e. Potentially we could broaden the panel with other voices
 - f. But what do we, DTG, want to do about affordable housing? That should drive who we invite.
 - g. Are we thinking of taking a position with regard to affordable housing in Arlington? That might shape our discussion.
 - h. Potential goal - how can we have more housing diversity? Big A, Little A affordability - addressing issues for multiple groups
 - i. Goal is nuanced discussion and understanding; nuance is often lacking—generally polar opposite opinions
 - ii. Would be better to have those living in affordable housing to tell us what works, what doesn't, what they would change

- iii. Also we want to know what is happening in other communities and what works
 - i. Two ways to look at this - who has solutions they are trying to promote OR who are the people who have the lived expertise.
 - j. We learned with the discussion about Arlington veterans that they are often facing difficulties with affordable housing.
 - k. We need to build trust so that people feel comfortable sharing their personal experiences, it takes time and it is a process - there will always be differences of opinion, but we can build layers of understanding.
 - l. Essentially, what role do we want to have in terms of deciding who comes in to educate/inform us?
 - m. What stance does the DTG want to take, endorse, support? How will we inform ourselves?
- 7. Discussion about DTG Co-Chair vacancy
 - a. Tabled until March 2022 meeting
- 8. Member news and announcements (15 mins.)
 - a. Dallin Museum \$50K grant to redesign its Indigenous Peoples Gallery
<https://www.yourarlington.com/arlington-archives/residents/ideas-fun/arts/19950-grant-020522.html> Sarah will reach out to see if anyone will be able to come present their plan.